

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 32290 01 OF 02 011517Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W  
-----020446 011521Z /40  
P 011105Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3912

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EA ONLY

EA/TIMBS FOR AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF, TH  
SUBJECT: REFUGEE STAFFING

REF: A) STATE 285546 B) BANGKOK 31579

1. SHEP LOWMAN CALLED TODAY AND I HAD A LONG DISCUSSION WITH HIM ON REFUGEE STAFFING. IN ESSENCE I BELIEVE OUR OVERALL VIEWS OF LIKELY FUTURE REQUIREMENTS ARE VERY CLOSE. HOWEVER, SHEP IS STILL CAUTIOUS ABOUT EVENTUAL LINKAGE OF REFUGEE OFFICE TO CONSULATE.

2. I TOLD SHEP THAT WE HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION TWO RELATED BUT DISTINCT ASPECTS OF STAFFING PROBLEM. THE FIRST RELATED TO THE STAFFING PATTERN UNDER THE CURRENT IPP-77. I EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION A SERIES OF STEPS INVOLVING PHASED REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL TIED TO PROGRAM NEEDS, AND THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE REFUGEE OPERATION PROBABLY TO A GOVERNMENT-OWNED BUILDING ON THE USIS COMPOUND.

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EM THE ONLY ASPECT OF THIS WHICH BOTHERED HIM WAS THE QUESTION OF ROSENBLATT'S TDY ASSIGNMENT AS DEPUTY COORDINATOR. I TOLD HIM MY CONCERN OVER EXTENDED USE OF TDY PERSONNEL AND DESCRIBED THE NATURE OF THE DEPUTY COORDINATOR'S WORK (OPERATIONS/OFFICE MANAGER). FOR HIS PART, SHEP EXPLAINED THAT HE HOPED THAT ROSENBLATT'S TDY

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY THROUGH APRIL/MAY WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL PRELUDE TO ROSENBLATT'S POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT TO GENEVA IN REFUGEE AREA. WE AGREED THAT A FEASIBLE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR ROSENBLATT TO COME OUT IN JANUARY TDY WITH CREHAN SUCCEEDING HIM AS DEPUTY COORDINATOR IN APRIL/MAY. SHEP WAS TO GET YOUR VIEWS.

4. SPECIFICALLY, IN TERMS OF THE IPP PROGRAM, WE WOULD BE RECOMMENDING FROM HERE THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT TO YOUR APPROVAL:

A. MOVE THE REFUGEE SECTION OUT OF THE CHOKCHAI BUILDING INTO EMBASSY OWNED SPACE, PROBABLY ON THE USIS COMPOUND, AT END APRIL 1978 WHEN PROGRAM PEAK HAS PASSED. (RENTAL, UTILITIES, AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES AT CHOKCHAI ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING \$2250 PER MONTH).

B. PRESUMING NO MAJOR FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM TO IPP-77, REDUCE THE AMERICAN COMPONENT OF THE JVR STAFF FROM 21 TO 14 POSITIONS BY MID-JANUARY (IF ACVA IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 22 OF REFTEL B), AND TO GO TO 8 POSITIONS BY APRIL: CHIEF, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, STATISTICAL/RECORDS, BOAT COORDINATOR, BOAT ASSISTANT, AND THREE INLAND CAMP SCREENER. SALARY, HOUSING, AND IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL EXPENSES WILL THUS DROP SHARPLY.

C. ASSIGN ROSENBLATT ON TDY IN JANUARY FOR APPROXIMATELY 4 MONTHS, UNTIL CONCLUSION OF PEAK PHASE OF IPP-77 IN APRIL. HE WOULD THEN BE SUCCEEDED BY CREHAN WHO WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMAIN AS DEPUTY COORDINATOR.

D. FILL AS OF 1 JULY 1978 THE CURRENT TDY SECRETARY POSITION OCCUPIED BY GEORGIA ACTON WITH A PIT SECRETARIAL POSITION IN BANGKOK, THUS SAVING SUBSTANTIAL TDY AND SALARY COSTS (GEORGIA IS PLANNING RETIREMENT AT THAT TIME.)

E. REDUCE THE THAI COMPONENT OF THE JVR STAFF FROM 22 TO 12 POSITIONS BY MID-JANUARY, AND 6 POSITIONS BY APRIL.

5. WITH REGARD TO LONG TERM QUESTION OF NON-JVR REFUGEE SECTION STAFFING, I POINTED OUT TO SHEP IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO REFUGEE SECTION AND OUR VIEW THAT IT NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED ON A MORE PERMANENT BASIS WHILE MAINTAINING FLEXIBILITY TO HANDLE ANY FUTURE ONGOING PROGRAMS. UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER FIX ON DIRECTION OF USG REFUGEE POLICY NEITHER SHEP NOR I COULD BE DEFINITIVE ON EXACT FUTURE STAFFING NEEDS. HOWEVER, SHEP INDICATED THAT HE HAD COME TO TENTATIVE CONCLUSION THAT THREE REFUGEE OFFICER SLOTS WERE MINIMUM NECESSARY (THIS INCLUDES JOHN TUCKER'S POSITION). IT IS OUR ESTIMATE THAT MINIMUM WOULD BE TWO OFFICER SLOTS (CREHAN, TUCKER) PLUS TWO AMERICAN PIT

POSITIONS (SECRETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE AIDE).  
DECISION ON A THIRD OFFICER COULD BE  
DEFERRED UNTIL LATER WHEN WE HAVE A BETTER PICTURE OF  
THE DIMENSIONS OF ANY FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM.

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W  
-----019862 011523Z /40

P 011105Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3963

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6. I ALSO EXPLAINED OUR VIEW THAT AFTER IPP-77 PROGRAM  
COMPLETED NEXT YEAR, THE BEST APPROACH  
WOULD BE THE MAINTENANCE OF REFUGEE OFFICE AS A  
DISTINCT ENTITY UNDER THE CONSULATE. IN THAT CONTEXT,  
BELIEVE THAT THE POST COULD ASSIGN CREHAN POSITION  
PERMANENTLY AS SUPERVISORY REFUGEE OFFICER/REFUGEE  
COORDINATOR. IN ADDITION TO ADVANTAGES WE GAIN FROM  
HAVING AN ADEQUATELY STAFFED REFUGEE OFFICE ON A  
PERMANENT BASIS, BELIEVE THAT INEVITABLY REFUGEE  
PROGRAM WILL BEGIN TO OVERLAP WITH NORMAL VISA PROCESS  
BEGINNING IN 1980 WHEN FIRST INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WILL  
HAVE COMPLETED REQUIRED FIVE YEARS TOWARDS CITIZENSHIP.  
WE BELIEVE IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO BEGIN PREPARING.  
WITH EXCEPTION OF CONTINUING CONCERN THAT LINKAGE  
WITH CONSULATE MIGHT DOWNGRADE REFUGEE FUNCTIONS, I DO  
NOT BELIEVE SHEP DISAGREES WITH ABOVE APPROACH. IN ANY  
EVENT THE QUESTION OF LINKAGE WITH CONSULAR SECTION IS  
ONE WHICH COULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL DIMENSIONS OF ANY  
ONGOING REFUGEE PROGRAM ARE KNOWN, HOPEFULLY EARLY IN  
THE NEW YEAR. SHEP INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT BE COMING  
OUT TO THAILAND IN EARLY JANUARY WITH MS. DERIAN AND  
THOUGHT WE COULD ADDRESS THAT ISSUE THEN.

7. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE SCA REACTION, I COULD ONLY  
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SAY THAT WE ARE IN A SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE A HIGHLY COMPETENT OFFICER (CREHAN) WHO IS UNDEREMPLOYED. IF WE DO NOT MOVE AS OUTLINED ABOVE I BELIEVE THAT WE MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER ELIMINATING ONE OF THE CONSULAR SECTION SLOTS IN FY 79. HOWEVER, WOULD NOT LIKE TO GO THAT ROUTE BECAUSE AS INDICATED ABOVE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONSULAR SECTION WILL WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BE ONCE AGAIN INVOLVED IN REFUGEE RELATED MATTERS AND WILL VERY MUCH NEED THIS CONSULATE SLOT.

8. I HOPE THIS WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN YOUR WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS. I WOULD NOTE THAT WE HAD NOT CONTEMPLATED ELIMINATING DEPUTY COORDINATOR POSITION BUT RATHER PUTTING CREHAN INTO IT IN JANUARY. HOWEVER, IF AGREEABLE TO YOU, ARRANGEMENTS ON ROSENBLATT I DISCUSSED WITH SHEP ARE ACCEPTABLE HERE ALTHOUGH THEY POST ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON REFUGEE OPERATION. BARNES INFORMS ME THAT MAC THOMPSON HAS BEEN ASKED TO STAY UNTIL DECEMBER 30. HOWEVER, THOMPSON HAS ASKED TO STAY UNTIL JAN 30. HE IS WILLING TO GIVE UP CHRISTMAS IN THE US AND FORFEIT OVER 100 HOURS OF ANNUAL LEAVE ONLY IF HIS TDY CAN BE EXTENDED UNTIL THEN. OTHERWISE HE WOULD PREFER TO TERMINATE HIS TDY DECEMBER 12. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH LOWMAN WITH A VIEW TO GETTING ROSENBLATT OUT HERE IN MID-DECEMBER OR, THAT FAILING, ARRANGE TO HAVE THOMPSON STAY THROUGH END OF JANUARY. EITHER ALTERNATIVE IS ACCEPTABLE BUT BARNES POINTS OUT THAT LATE DECEMBER WILL BE AN EXTREMELY BUSY PERIOD.

9. ANTIPPAS AND BARNES HAVE READ THIS AND AGREE WITH THE APPROACH I HAVE DESCRIBED.

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QPM WE WILL WAIT FOR FURTHER WORD FROM YOU BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION.  
O'DONOHUE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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